

2007 National EMS Week: Extraordinary People, Extraordinary Service

Whether it's a highly-trained emergency services professional or the classmate you see in school every day, you never know where a hero might be found.

That's fortunate for the dozens of people whose lives were saved at Trolley Square earlier this year, and for Freemont High School student Caitlin Cluff. Cluff met her heroes last November when she collapsed without warning at school. Sarah Bunn and Chantelle Cordon, classmates at the Plain City, Utah school, had the courage to take action to save her life. When Caitlin passed out, she didn't know it was because of an undetected heart condition. Sarah and Chantelle began CPR while their teacher called 911 and waited for emergency medical responders to arrive.

Many more heroes emerged during the Trolley Square siege in February, including emergency medical teams who were the first responders - brave men and women who used their skills to treat the injured in those moments after the gunman was taken down.

The Utah Department of Health (UDOH) Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) honored the men and women who represent Utah's many heroes. The annual EMS Awards Ceremony commemorated 2007 National EMS Week, May 21-26.

Although they were honored for their role in the Trolley Square tragedy, EMS responders are reluctant to be called heroes, saying they did what they were trained to do.

"This year's theme, Extraordinary People, Extraordinary Service, truly describes the EMS professionals who exemplify extraordinary people by their dedication and provide extraordinary service with their skills and remarkable commitment to their communities," said EMS Bureau Director Paul Patrick. "And we pay tribute to some outstanding private citizens who showed remarkable strength in times of need."

"We are proud to recognize all our citizens, private and professional, who showed great courage in saving lives," added Dr. David N. Sundwall, Executive Director, UDOH.

The EMS Week Awards are presented by the UDOH EMS Bureau in cooperation with the Sandy City Fire Department. Following is a list of all 2007 award winners:

Outstanding Citizens Award

High School Teens Save the Life of Caitlin Cluff

Caitlin Cluff did not know that she would meet her heroes on November 11, 2006, but when she suddenly collapsed on the floor. Sarah Bunn and Chantelle Cordon, her two classmates at the Freemont High School in Plain City, Utah, had the courage to take action to save her life. When Caitlin started feeling faint in class, she did not know that it was triggered from a life-threatening acute heart condition that had gone undetected. Startled when Caitlin collapsed, Sarah and Chantelle they immediately sprang into action and began CPR while 9-1-1 was being called for emergency medical responders.

Plain City and Ogden Fire Departments arrived at the scene, continuing resuscitation and stabilization efforts. Caitlin was rushed to McKay-Dee hospital and a few days later, walked out of the hospital.

Award Recipients:

Sarah Bunn

Chantelle Cordon

Water Rescue of Two-year-old Jaxon Miera - Farmington Creek

On Thursday, April 27, 2007, Jaxon Miera fell into Farmington Creek by the Lagoon Campground. Jaxon's mother was anxiously searching for her missing two-year-old son when the realization and fear that Jaxon had fallen into the cold water immediately started the frantic search. Farmington Police Chief Wayne Hansen, Sgt. Parish Snyder, and Det. Bryant Ives responded.

Jared Miner and his mother, Joy, saw Jaxon in the water. Jared jumped in after him and Joy helped pull the lifeless child from the creek. Within minutes, Sgt. Snyder and Det. Ives began CPR until Farmington Fire EMS and Davis Co. Sheriff's paramedics arrived. An Air Med helicopter flew Jaxon to Primary Children's Medical Center.

Jaxon's parents, Brook and Joseph Miera, are happy to report that their son is doing well thanks to the efforts of everyone involved. With special thanks to Jared and Joy Miner and Sgt. Snyder and Det. Ives, who helped saved Jaxon's life.

Award Recipients:

Jared and Joy Miner

Det. Bryant Ives and Sgt. Parish Snyder, Farmington Police Department

Outstanding Performance in an Emergency Medical Incident

On February 12, 2007, at approximately 6:45 PM, Salt Lake City 911 began receiving numerous calls from people within the Trolley Square Mall indicating shots had been fired. It was quickly evident that a armed man was making his way through the mall, firing at people at random. Many heroes emerged during the Trolley Square siege, including emergency medical teams who were the first responders, brave men and women who used their skills to treat the injured in those moments after the gunman was taken down.

Emergency medical arrived at the scene and initial staging was set up with treatment and triage groups. These actions were invaluable in preventing duplication of efforts and in providing definitive care to viable patients. A 53-year-old male with gunshot wounds was treated and transported to the University Medical Center, after he was located in the Cabin Fever store. Another 44-year-old male with gunshot wounds was treated and transported to LDS Hospital. Outside the mall in the parking lot, a 16-year-old-male was found sitting in his vehicle with a wound to the side of his head. He too was treated at the scene and transported. A female who was 32 weeks pregnant was treated and transported for psychological trauma. Inside the mall, 6 people were dead, including the gunman.

Initial crews faced the very real possibility of a second shooter. Knowing this, the crews acted without hesitation. At least two of the patients would have died if not for the quick actions of the EMS responders. The 911 dispatchers handled dozens of calls under extreme pressure and stress as they directed incoming police and fire units and callers to safety.

The combined professionalism of all agencies resulted in saving lives and preventing more victims. This incident is the largest multiple victim event that has occurred in Salt Lake City in many years.

It is hard to describe the thoughts and emotions that take place during an incident like this one. All of those who watched it unfold on TV were impacted, although those who actually lived the experience will always be changed. Many awards have been given to the valiant police officers from Salt Lake City and Ogden City, and the Utah Department of Health honors their heroic efforts to mitigate the event with minimal loss of life.

Award Recipients:

Salt Lake City Fire

**Salt Lake City Dispatch
Southwest Ambulance
Gold Cross Ambulance**

Outstanding EMS Response in a Specific Incident

Fatal Head-On Auto Accident:

It was early on a Saturday Morning, December 23, 2006, when Dixie Regional Medical Center received a radio call from Hurricane Fire and Rescue notifying them of a head-on collision on State Road 9. The crash involved two vehicles with five people critically injured and possible fatalities. The driver of the minivan was a grandfather with his two grandsons and their neighbor who were all returning from picking peaches.

The grandfather was pronounced dead at the scene, while the other three critically injured were transported by Hurricane Fire to Dixie Regional Medical Center where trauma teams were set up and waiting to help. Hildale Fire Department's ambulance offered assistance and transported the fourth patient to Dixie Regional. Even with the skillful and expert care provided by the Hurricane and Hildale Fire Department's EMS responders, the aftermath of this tragic accident was the loss of three lives.

Award Recipients

**Hurricane Fire and Rescue
Hildale Fire Department**

Outstanding Performance by a Pediatric Team

Newborn Baby Revived by Sandy City Fire Emergency Responders:

On February 5, 2007, Sandy City Paramedic Rescue 32 was dispatched to a respiratory arrest of a newborn. As Rescue 32 arrived, Paramedic Ryan McConaghie found the mother on the side of the bed in a birthing chair with the baby on the floor still attached by the umbilical cord. A midwife team was on the floor performing CPR and assisting ventilation with a pediatric Bag Valve Mask. Paramedics began resuscitation of the newborn as Life Flight crews arrived and began assisting and preparing the baby to be transported by helicopter. The baby was flown to Primary Children's Medical Center. At last report, the baby was released from the hospital and home with mother and father.

Award Recipients:

**Sandy City Fire Department
Life Flight Air Ambulance**

Outstanding Performance by a Search and Rescue Team

Pfeifferhorn Avalanche

On February 3, 2007, two men were attempting to climb the east ridge of the Pfeifferhorn in Little Cottonwood Canyon. Both men were caught by an avalanche and carried over a 150' cliff-band onto the snow slope below. One of the men was able to call 911 just after the slide occurred. Search and Rescue teams responded from Salt Lake, Utah, and Wasatch Counties, along with two Life Flight helicopters and a Department of Public Safety helicopter. Strong winds gusting up to 80 miles per hour at the accident site made it impossible for helicopters to land at the site. The rescuers who had hiked to the victims were able to transport the injured men to the helicopter using skis and a sled. The men were flown to LDS Hospital.

Award Recipients

Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue

Outstanding Performance of the Year

Emergency Physician of the Year

Award Recipient: Frank Thomas, M.D., Intermountain Hospital, Life Flight

Paramedic of the Year

Award Recipient: Ryan Frandsen, South Davis Metro Fire Agency

Emergency Nurse of the Year

Award Recipient: Steven Connolly, Dixie Regional Medical Center

Distinguished Service

Award Recipient: B. Leroy (Roy) Boland, Mountain West Medical Center

Emergency Medical Technician of the Year

Award Recipient: Joseph Treadwell, Murray City Fire Department

EMS Instructor of the year

Award Recipient: Nathan Allan Pennington, Gold Cross Ambulance

EMS Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Award Recipient: Brook Fowers, Weber County Sheriff's Office

EMSC Coordinator of the Year

Award Recipient: Jacquelyn Brooks, Milford Valley Ambulance

Don Ahrends Award – CISM

Award Recipients: Jan Buttrey and Evelyn Draper

For more information on the EMS Awards Ceremony, visit the UDOH Bureau of Emergency Medical Services Web site at www.health.utah.gov/ems.